GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:143
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001
TREATMENT OF BLOOD CANCER IN AYURVEDA
HARIBHAU MAHALE;M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an indigenous, effective and economic treatment has been found for Acute Promyelocytic Leukaemia (APL) a deadly strain of blood cancer in Ayurveda;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have accepted the clinical findings of the study;

(d) whether any committee has been set up for the development of the drug; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard and findings of committee?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 143 FOR 1.8.2001

(a) to (e) The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Heath and Family Welfare engaged in conducting research in Ayurveda and Siddha had sanctioned a grant-in-aid Research Project to M/s Chandra Prakash Cancer Research Foundation, Dehradun to evaluate the `Effect of Metal Based Ayurvedic formulations on Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia` (APML) in October, 1997. In a clinical study conducted on 15 patients of APML, 4 patients diedIt has been reported that out of 11 patients who completed 90 days treatment all were found Leukemia free on the assessment on the Bone Marrow and 10 out of 11 patients are alive to date. However, the complete project report has not been received as yet from the principal investigator and the drug is still under clinical trial.

A Drug Development Committee was constituted in May, 2001, comprising Ayurvedic experts and modern pharmacologists to oversee the development of the drug used in the treatment of APML cases. The Committee has observed that various requirements are yet to be fulfilled in order to standardize the drug which uses various metal and minerals as ingredients.